

STC 101203

ARTICLES To be ministred, en-

quired of, and answered in the Visi-
tation of the right Worshipfull Sir

NATHANIEL BRENT, Knight

Doctor of the Civill Law,

Commissary Generall to the most

Reverend Father in God the Lord

Archbishop of *Canterbury*, his

Grace, within the City

and Diocese of

Canterbury.



LONDON

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1638?

The Tenour of the Oath to bee min-
istred to the Church-wardens
and Sworne-men.

You shal sweare, that all affection, favour, hatred, hope of reward and gaine, or feare of displeasure or malice set aside, you shal upon due consideration of the Articles given you in charge, present all and every such person of, or within your Parish, as hath committed any offence mentioned in these or any of these Articles, or which are vehemently suspected, and defamed of any such offence: wherein you shall discharge your consciences uprightly, and according to trueth, neither of malice, presenting any contrary to trueth, nor of corrupt affection sparing to present any, and so conceale the trueth, having in this action God before your eyes, with an earnest zeale to maintaine trueth, and to supprese vice: So helpe you God, and by the contents of this Booke.

God save the King.

THE ARTICLES.

In primis, whether have you in your severall Churches
and Chappels, the booke of Constitutions or Canons Ec-
clesiasticall, ready to be read by your minister, according
to his Maiesties pleasure, published by his Highnes au-
thoritie, vnder the great Seale of England: and whether hath
your minister read the same, or any part thereof vpon Sun-
dayes and Holydayes in the afternoone before divine Seruice
accordingly, yea or not?

Booke of Canons.

2 Item, whether is there any in your Parish that doth impugne any of the Articles of Religion, agreed vpon in Anno. 1562. and established in the Church of England.

3 Item, whether doth your Minister use to pray for the Kinges Maiesty, King Charles our Queene Mary, Prince King, &c. Charles, the Lady Mary, with the Princesse Palatine of Rhine, and all their Royall Progeny, with addition of such stile and Titles as are due and appertaining to his Maiesty, and exhort the people to obedience to his Highnes, and other Magistrates being in authority vnder him?

4 Item, whether is there any in your Parish, that impugneth or speaketh against the Rites and Ceremonies established in the Church of England, or the lawfull use of them: you shal present their names.

Impugne the Rites or Ceremonies.

5 Item, are there any in your Parish that do impugne the government of the Church of England vnder the Kings most Excellent Maiesty, by Arch-bishops, Bishops, Deanes, Arch-deacons, and the rest that beare Office in the same; affirming that the same is Antichristian, or repugnant to the word of God?

Impugne the Church government.

6 Item, whether any persons have lurked and tipled in Tauerne or Ale houses on Sundayes or other Holidayes, or vsed his or their manuell craft or trade vpon the said dayes, or otherwise prophaned them, or any of them, in any sort and

Propagating the Sabbath.

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especially in the time of Divine Service.

7 Item, whether is the prescript forme of divine Service used by your Minister upon Sundayes and Holidays, according to the booke of Common Prayer: and whether doth your Minister duely obserue all the Orders, Rites and Ceremonies prescribed in the sayd Booke of Common Prayer, as well in reading publike prayers, the Letanie, as also in administering the sacraments in such manner and forme as in the booke of Common Prayer is intyned?

8 Item, whether hath any person in your Parish quarrelled or stricken, or used any violence unto, or with your Minister, or any other in the Church or Churchyard, or used himself disorderly in the Church by filthy and prophane talke, or any other rude and immodest behaviour?

9 Item, whether is that due reverence and humble submission used within your Church or Chappell in the time of divine Service, as by the eighteenth Constitution is prescribed: whether each one in the Church or Chappel do apply and disorder himself there, in time of divine Service, as by the latter part of the same Constitution is most commendably intyned?

10 Item, whether the Churchwardens do provide against every Communion with the aduise of the Minister, a sufficient quantity of fine white bread, and of good and wholesome wine for the number of the Communicants, that shal receiue, and that to be brought in a cleane and sweete standing pot of pewter or of other pure mettall?

11 Item, whether doth your Minister administer the holy Communion so often, and at such time, as that every parishioner may receiue the same at least thrice every yere, whereof once at Easter, as by the booke of Common Prayer is appointed: and whether doeth your Minister receiue the same himselfe on every day before that he administereth it to others, and use the words of the institution according to the booke at every time that the bread or wine is renewed in such maner and forme, as by the prouiso of the 21. Canon is directed, or wherin he is faulty: and whether is warning given by him beforehand for the Communion, as the 22. Canon requireth?

12 Item, whether doth your Minister administer the sayd Communion to any that doeth not humbly kneele at the receiuing

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Administering and
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ning of the same: what are the names of them that refuse to
make at the receiving thereof?

13 Item, whether hath your Minister admitted any notorious offenders or schismatics to the Communion, contrary to the 26. and 27. Constitutions?

14 Item whether the Minister, together with the Church, No strangers to be admitted
wardens and Questmen, doe take diligent heede and care, not
only that all and every your owne Parishioners doe receive
to rice in every yere, as aforesayd, but also that no strangers of
any other Parish do come often and commonly to your church
from their owne Parish Church: and you are now to present
the names of all those, who being 16. yeres of age or upwards,
have not in their owne Parish received the Communion at, or
since Easter last?

15 Item, whether doth your Minister vse to signe the chil-
dren with the signe of the crosse when they are baptizéd, accord-
ing to the booke of Common Prayer: and whether he hath
deferred, or wilfully refused to baptize any Infant in his parish
being in danger, having bin only informed of the weakenesse
thereof: and whether the child hath died in his default with-
out baptisme: or whether he hath at any time refused or neg-
lected to bury the dead, or to minister the Sacrament of the
Lords Supper to any being in extremity of sicknesse, having
bin required therunto?

16 Item, whether is your Minister continually resident Residencie.
with you upon his Benefice, or for how long time hath he bin
absent: and where is he resident for the most part, and what o-
ther Benefice hath hee?

17 Item, whether doth your Minister preach usually, ac- Preaching ac-
cording to the Constitutions, either in his owne cure with you, cording to the
or else in some other Church or Chappell neare adjoyning,
wherein no Preacher is: or how oft hath hee bin negligent in
that behalfe?

18 Item, whether doth your Minister or Curate serue any More Cures
more Cures than one: if yea; then what other cure doth hee
serue?

19 Item, if your Minister be not licensed to preach whether Licensed to
doth he take upon him to expound the Scriptures, either in his preach.
alone cure or else where?

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20 Item, whether hath any person bin admitted to preach
within your Church or Chappell, but such as you have well
knowne to be sufficiently licensed?

21 Item, whether doth your Lecturer and Preacher, your
Parson or Vicar, read divine Service, and administer the Sac-
raments in his owne person, since every yeare, obseruing all
the Ceremonies in the Booke of Common prayer established?

22 Item, is there any in your Parish that refuse to haue
their children baptiz'd, or themselves to receive the Commu-
nion at the hands of your Minister, because he is no Preacher?
you shall present their names. And if your Minister, sithence
the publishing of the said booke of Canons, hath received any
such persons (being not of his owne cure) to the Communion,
or baptiz'd any of their children, you shall likewise present
him.

23 Item, whether are there any private meetings, assem-
blies, or conventicles, either by day or by night, used or had
within the Parish by any Minister or Ministers, or any Lay-
persons tending to faction and Schisme? Declare the parties
nam's, the places where, the times when, and how often
haue you knowne any such meetings, assemblies, or conven-
ticles.

24 Item, whether doth your Minister weare the Surplice
whilst he is saying the publique prayers, and ministring the
Sacraments: and if hee be any Graduate, whether then doth
he also weare vpon his Surplice, during the times aforesayd,
such a hood as by the Order of his Universitie is agreeable to
his degr'e?

25 Item, whether doth your Minister on every Sunday and
Holiday before Evening Prayer, for halfe an houre or more,
examine and instruct the yongh and ignorant persons of his
Parish, in the ten Commandements, Articles of Belief and
in the Lords Prayer, as also in the Catechisme, set forth in the
Booke of Common Prayer, and whether doe all Fathers, Mo-
thers, Masters and Mistresses, cause their children, servants
and apprentices, to come thither to heare, and to bee instructed
and taught therein: and those that doe not their dutties herein,
you shall present their names?

26 Item, whether hath your Minister, without license from
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the Arch-bishop, the Bishop of the Diocesse, or his Chancellor, solemnized marriage betwixt any parties, the Banes not bee-
ing thre severall Sundayes or Holidayes first published in
time of Divine Service, in the severall churches or chappells,
of their severall abode, according to the Booke of Common
Prayer, and that also betwixt the houres of eight and twelue
in the forenoon: and furthermore, whether hath your Mi-
nister since the last Canons published, solemnized any marriage
betwixt any persons, being vnder the age of one and twentie
yeeres, although the banes bee thrice asked, before such time as
the parents haue mads knownde vnto him their consent there-
vnto: and whether hath hee married any of another Diocesse,
who are they, and by what authoritie, and when?

27 Item, whether your Minister doe every Sunday bid ^{Bid Holiday} Holidayes, and fasting dayes, as by the Booke of common pray-^{and fasting} er is appointed?

28 Item, whether doth your Minister every sixe moneths, Denounce in his Parish all such of his Parish as doe perseuer ^{communicat} in the sentence of excommunication, not seeking to be absolved ^{persons.} and whether hath he admitted into the Church any person ex-
communicate, without a certificate of his absolution from the
Ordinarie, or his Substitute?

29 Item, whether your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, hath excommunicated ^{cated person:} any excommunicate person (being a mem-
ber cut off from the Church and from Christian societie) to
be partaker of those Prayers, and hath not commandid the
Churchwardens of the Parish, or some other, to put him out
of the Church, or otherwise ceasid from sayir g any Divine
Prayers during the time o^f the presence of such excommuni-
cated person therat, and present: who hath offended herein, and
how often?

30 Item, whether your Parson, Vicar or Curate, of any Staying the
your Churches or Chappells, having received any excommuni- publishing of
cation, suspension or aggrauation from his Ordinary, or his excommuni-
Substitute, against any of their Parishioners, haue presumed cation or sus-
pensions.

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to make stay of, and not published such excommunication, suspension or aggravation, according to the tenor thereof, the next Sunday or Holiday after the receipt of the same in your Church or Chappell at the time of divine Service: if any bee faultie herein, present their names, and how oft default hath bin made in that behalfe.

Item, whether is your Minister painfull in visiting the sick, according to the booke of Common Prayer?

Item, whether is your Parson, Vicar, or Curate suspected to frequent, or to be ouer conuersant with, or a fauourer of Recusants, whereby he is suspected not to bee sincere in Religion?

Item, hath any presumed to execute the Office of a Minister or Deacon in any your Churches, and to say and celebrate the divine Service there, or to serue the Cure of your Parish, not being a Minister or Deacon: and whether any Deacon hath presumed to minister the Sacraments in any your Churches not having first received the full Orders of Priesthood: if yea, present what his name is, where he dwelleth, and how often he hathe offended herein.

Item, whether is there in your Church or Chappell, one parchment Register Booke provided for Christnings, Marriages and Burials: and whether is the same duely and exactly kept according to the Constitutions in that behalfe provided?

Item, whether doth your Minister use such decencie and comeliness in his apparel, as by the 74. Constitution is enjoyned?

Item, doth any take vpon him to teach Schoole in your Parish, without speciall licence of his Ordinary: and whether doth your Scholemaster bring his Schooleers to the Church to heare divine Service and Sermons: and whether doth hee instruct them in the Catechisme?

Item, whether haue you provided the Booke of Common Prayer, and the Bible of the new Translation lately set forth by his Majesties authoritie, and the Booke of Homilies: and whether haue you in your Church or Chappell, a Fonte of stone set vp in th' ancient vsual place, a convenient and decent Communion Table, with a Carpet of silke, or some other decent stoffe, and a faire linnen cloth to lay thereon at the Communion

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mention time : and whether is the same Table then placed in such convenient sort within the Chancell or Church, as that the Minister may be best heard in his prayer and administration, and that the greater number may communicate : and whether are the Ten Commandments set vpon the East end of your Church or Chappell, where the people may best see and reade them, and other sentences of holy Scriptures witten on the walls also for that purpose ?

38 Item, whether haue you a convenient seat for your Minister to read Service in, together with a comely Pulpit set vp in a convenient place, with a decent Cloath or Cushion for the same : a comely large Surplice, a faire Communion Cup of gold, siluer, or other pure mettall, and a cover agreeable for the same, with all other things and ornaments necessary for the celebration of Divine Service, and administration of the Sacraments ?

Things necessary for divine Service.

39 Item, whether are your Church or Chappells, with the Reparation of Chancels thereof, and your Parsonages or Vicarage house, and all other housing thereto belonging, in good reparations, and decent and comely kept, as well within as without, the Doates well maintained, a sure Coffer with thre lockes and keyes for the safe keeping of your Register Booke, your Church yards well senced and kept without abuse : if not, then thowth whose defaults, and what defects are therein ?

Parsonage house, &c.

40 Item, whether do you know, or haue heard of any legacie by any mans will, or any gift otherwise given to the poore, the vse of the Church, or to any other holy vies, and not performed or bestowed according to his will and gift, and in whose hands the same doth now remaine ?

Gifts given to the Church.

41 Item, how many Inhabitants within your Parish, men Recusants, or women aboue 16 years of age be Popish Recusants, or doe refuse to frequent Divine Service established by publique authority of this Realme, or to receiue the holy Communion, what be their names, and of what degré, state or trade of life are they : you are to present them all of both sortes.

42 Item, how long the said Popish Recusants haue obstinately abstained either from Divine Service, or from the Communion, as is aforesaid : whether any long time, or onely since his Majesties Raigne ?

How long they haue bin Recusants.

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All resort to
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Parish Clarke.

43 Item, whether is your Minister a Preacher sufficiently qualified: and if he be, whether doth he from time to time offer quiet and temperate conference to reclaime the Popish Recusants from their errors: and whether they or any of them doe refuse such conference with your Minister, or any other Preacher, who shal present unto them his diligence in that behalfe?

44 Item, what persons aforesaid within your Parish, either for the offence aforesaid, or for any other contumacie or crime, doe remaine excommunicate, what be their names, and for what cause, & how long they have so stood excommunicate?

45 Item, whether were you the Church-wardens & Quest-men chosen by the consent of the Minister and Parishioners: and whether have the Church-wardens before you, given vp a just account for their time, and delivered to you their successors whatsoever money, or other things of right belonging to the Church, that was in their hands: and whether do you and every of you diligently see, that all the Parishioners, doe duly resort to their Church every Sunday and Holiday, and there continue the whole time of divine Service, and none to walke or stand idle, or talking in the Church, or Church-porch, or Church-yard, during that time: and whether doe all the Parishioners and their Families accordingly frequent their Parish Church, and there behauie themselves soberly, attentively, and decently, all the time of Divine Service, yea or no: if no, then you shall present their names.

46 Item, whether doe all persons aboue the age of sixteene yeres vsually resort to heare Divine Service vpon Sundayes and Holidayes appointed: and whether hath each one of your Parishioners (being aboue the age of sixteene yeres aforesaid) received the holy Communion thrice this last yere, and chiefly since at Easter last, in your Parish Church kneeling: if no, then you shall present their names which haue not so done.

47 Item, whether haue you a fit Parish Clark aged twenty yeres at least, of honest conuersation, and sufficient for reading and writing: and whether he be paid his wages without stand, according to the most ancient custome of your Parish: if not, then by whom he is so defrauded and denied: and whether he be chosen by the Parson, or Vicar, or by whom?

48 Item, whether haue any in your Parish bee ne married within

Table for ma-
ritages.

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within the prohibited degrēes, forbidden by the Law of God, and expressed in a certaine Table, published by authority in the yēte 1563 if yea, then shall you present their names: and whether haue you the said Table publikly set vp in your Church, and fastned to some conuenient place there?

49 Item, whether doth any heretofore ouerced, keēp com- Persons di-
pany with any other at bed and at bord, what be their names, ouerced.
when and where were they married?

50 Item, doth your Minister vse the forme of thanksgiving To give
to women after child-birth: and whether hath he admitted any thankes aft-
thereunto that was begotten with childe in adultery, or forni- Child-birth
cation without licence of his Ordinarie? And whether haue
any married wifes refusid to come to Church according to the
Booke of Common Prayer, to give God thankes after Child-
birch, in such vsuall and decent manner, as anciently hath bin
accustomēd: if any be faultēy herein, you shall present their
names.

51 Item, whether haue you any in your Parish, to your Incontinent
knowleoge, or by common fame and report, which haue commit- persons, dru-
ted adultery, fornication, or incest, which haue not bene pub- kards, swe-
likely punished to your knowledge: if yea, then with whom: or
any man that hath attempted the chastity of any woman, or
hath solicited any woman, or the intent to haue the carnall
knowledge of her body, or any in your Parish to be Baluds, or
receiuers of any such persons, or suspected of any the crimes
aforesaid: are there any that are, or by common fame and re-
port are reputed and taken to be such persons, or be common
drunkards, blasphemers of Gods holy name, common and vsu-
all swearers, filthy speakers, usurers, symoniacall persons, figh-
ters, brawlers, or quarrellers in Church or Church-yard: you
shall not faile to present their names.

52 Item, whether haue any in your Parish received or har- Harbouing
boured any woman begotten with childe out of Wedlock, and incontinent
suffered them to depart againe without punishment first infi- persons.
ced on them by their Ordinarie: you shall truely present as
well the party harbouring, as harboured, and who is suspected
to be the Father of her childe?

53 Item, whether are there in your Parish any Wills not Wills.
yet proued: you shall not faile to present the Executors, and
all

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will offer a faculty and capable therein.

54 Item, whether you know in any your Parishes, any
Witches, mouthayers, Conurers, Charmers, Sozzerers, or
any that be suspected for such persons: present their names and
what speciall hurt they have committed?

55 Item, whether there be any Hospitals or Almes-houses in your Parish, and whether the same be vsed, kept, and ordered according to the foundations, lawes, and Statutes thereof, and in whom the fault is, that they are not so vsed and kept?

56 Item, whether your Parson Wicar, or Curate doth usually every yere in the Rogation weeks goe with the Parishioners in the perambulations about the Parish, according to the custome and use of ancient time, and doth say the prayers and suffrages appointed for the same?

57 Item, whether is the first day of November observed and kept festiwall, as by a speciall Act of Parliament in that case prouided, is appointed?

58 Doe you know of any other matter of Ecclesiastical cognizance worthy the presentment in your judgement, which you hold fit to be reformed: if you doe, you shall likewise present the same by vertue of your Datthes afore-said.

FINIS.